THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) No such report of irregularities in the distribution of subsidised motor pumpsets to the SCs and STs under the Minor Irrigation Scheme, Comprehensive Rural Development Scheme etc. in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa in 1995-96 has been received by this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Potential in Dhanbad

680. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC had carried out preliminary studies to evaluate Coal Bed Mehtane (CBM) potential in Parbatpur Mahal-Sitanala area of Dhanbad district in Bihar;

(b) whether these areas were leased to SAIL by Coal India Ltd., for captive mining;

(c) whether any pre-feasibility report was submitted to SAIL by ONGC with the proposal to form joint venture company to explore CBM from this field; and

(d) if so, the response of SAIL and the present status of CBM exploration in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) The Screening committee functioning in the Ministry of Coal has identified certain coal mining blocks, including Sitanala, Mahal and Parbatpur in Jaria Coalfield for captive development by M/s. Steel Authority of India Ltd.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No response has yet been received by ONGC from SAIL exploration for CBM has not Commenced.

Supply of Gas to Pipavav Power Project

681. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 459 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1996 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to supply gas to Pipavav Power Project of Gujarat; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the alternative arrangement proposed by Government for the supply of gas to Pipavav Power Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SH.T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to take the gas from mid-Tapti and South tapti to Hazira to meet existing commitments at Hazira and along the HBJ pipeline. The Government of Gujarat has been advised to base the Pipavav power project on alternative fuels.

गुजरात में विदेशी सहयोग से बिजली परियोजनाएं

682. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी: **प्रधानमंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात में अब तक विदेशी सहयोग से कितनी विद्युत परियोजनाएं स्थापित की गई हैं तथा इसका जिलावार ब्यौरा क्या है,

(ख) इन परियोजनाओं की मूल लागत, वार्षिक विद्युत उत्पादन क्षमता और किए गए कुल निवेश का ब्यौरा क्या है,

(ग) राज्य में विदेशी सहयोग से जिलावार स्थापित की जाने वाली कितनी गई परियोजनाएं सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं तथा वर्ष 1996-97 और 1997-98 के दौरान उनकी विद्युत उत्पादन का ब्यौरा क्या है, और